

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07020 231322 Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03

DPW-01 RSR-01 /081 W

----- 009797

R 231110 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 595

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 7020

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: MISSING CORRESPONDENTS- MOREAU AND TODD

REF: SAIGON 6874

1. JOURNALISTS RON MOREAU OF NEWSWEEK AND OLIVIER TODD OF NOUVELLE OBSERVATEUR, PARIS, HAVE NOT EMERGED FROM COMMUNIST-HELD TERRITORY IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM GVN SOURCES IN AN XUYEN, THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS AND A FRENCH WOMAN COMPANION ENTERED VC BASE AREA 48 2 IN DAM DOI DISTRICT DURING THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 18. THEY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REMAINED WITH THE VC THROUGH APRIL 19 AT RACH MUOI HAMLET (WR 095079) WHERE THEIR PRG HOSTS ASSEMBLED SOME 300 PEOPLE, LARGELY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND DISPLAYED AN INJURED BABY THE VC CLAIMED TO BE VICTIM OF GVN ARTILLERY FIRE.

2. ANOTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORT STATES THE JOURNALISTS WERE TAKEN TO NHA PHAN HAMLET (WR 115013) ON APRIL 20 AND WERE LATER OBSERVED WALKING IN THE COMPANY OF VC GUERRILLAS TOWARD THE BAY HOP CANAL. ONE SOURCE SPECULATED THE PAIR MIGHT BE HEADING FOR THE ONG DOC RIVER WHERE THEY COULD LEAVE THE AREA BY SAMPAN.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07020 231322 Z

3. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT TODD AND MOREAU ARE IN ANY DANGER FROM THE VIET CONG. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE STAYED IN VC- CONTROLLED TERRITORY AT LEAST THREE DAYS LONGER THAN OTHER CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY VISITED PRG AREAS.

4. THE AN XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF HAS SET UP ROAD BLOCKS TO APPREHEND THE JOURNALISTS WHEN THEY SURFACE. HE HAS TOLD CONGEN REPRESENTATIVES THAT HE HAS ORDERS TO TURN TODD AND MOREAU OVER TO THE NATIONAL POLICE IN SAIGON.

5. NEWSWEEK' S HONG KONG BUREAU CHIEF LOREN JENKINS, NOW IN SAIGON, HAS SOUGHT INFORMATION ON TODD AND MOREAU FROM THE PRG CONTACT IN SAIGON WHO ORIGINALLY ARRANGED FOR THE CORRESPONDENTS TO VISIT THE VC- CONTROLLED AREA. ACCORDING TO JENKINS, HIS PRG CONTACT WAS UNABLE TO SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE JOURNALISTS' EXACT WHEREABOUTS. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED JENKINS THEY WERE IN NO DANGER, AS THERE HAD BEEN NO FIGHTING RECENTLY BETWEEN GVN AND PRG FORCES IN OR NEAR THE VC BASE AREA. A PRG COLONEL ON THE KTPJMC INFORMED JENKINS APRIL 21 THAT TODD AND MOREAU PLANNED TO STAY WITH THE VC A FULL WEEK, ACCORDING TO ANOTHER AMERICAN NEWS CORRESPONDENT.
BUNKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON07020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730448/aaaaiuhn.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SAIGON 6874
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980127
Subject: MISSING CORRESPONDENTS- MOREAU AND TODD
TAGS: PINS, VS, (MOREAU, RON), (TODD, OLIVER)
To: EA
STATE INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005